

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

The XX undersigned organizations—representing the full breadth of diverse programs that support all of America, every day—are deeply alarmed by the possibility for very deep cuts in these non-defense programs (often referred to as non-defense discretionary appropriations or simply “NDD”) for the next fiscal year if a full year continuing resolution were to pass. Such cuts would be disastrous for the capacity of the federal government to serve the public, assist those in need, fuel innovation, and address national and global threats.

Nondefense appropriations are a small part of the federal budget—less than one-sixth—yet they fund a wide range of important programs and services that make America run. Examples include: scientific and medical research, medical care for veterans, environmental protections, assistance with housing and child care for low-income families, rural development, support for K-12 education and skills training, financial aid for college students, infrastructure investments in things like sewage treatment, safe drinking water, flood control and navigation improvements, diplomacy, humanitarian aid and development, courts and reentry programs, assistance for small businesses, and other programs for seniors, public health, and many more.

Enacting the cap of \$703.4 billion included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act by passing a full year CR for all 12 spending bills will take almost 9% from every program in the NDD spending category. The results of this cut would be catastrophic for the American people, and was not the spirit of the agreement Congress made with the White House back in June to lift the debt ceiling. That deal included numerous handshake agreements; indeed, Congress likely would not have voted to pass the FRA had those side deals not been reached.

Together we call on Congress to finish the FY24 appropriations process in line with the agreement reached on behalf of the American people. We urge Congressional leadership to look at the bipartisan appropriations work done in the Senate this past July as an example of the type of bipartisanship the American people expect to ensure the programs they rely on are funded in a manner that allows them to provide the services they expect. We also ask that you come to an

agreement on funding other urgent spending priorities quickly so we can turn our collective attention to FY25.